

**BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, May 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington, Neuwirth and Merritt

Also present were: Councilor Rivers, Chief Paul Hammick, Chief Robert Farmer , Chief William Riley, Pat Braun, Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Councilors Hypolite

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

**POLICE**

The police department remains on target with budget and expenditures within normal levels. Overtime has been managed appropriately in all divisions. The budget currently supports 49 sworn officers, however there are 48 sworn officers on staff at this time.

**Personnel Updates**

Chief Hammick reported that Sergeant Santo Pizzo announced that he will retire from the department in September 2014.

Chief Hammick recently hired Officer John Barrett on April 3, 2014. Officer Barrett will began the Post Police Academy on April 4, 2014. The department conducted background investigation for two potential candidates. There is one available vacancy in the upcoming police academy class. Recruiting for the next testing phase will begin at the end of June 2014.

On May 12, 2014, a job fair will be held at First Cathedral in collaboration with the CT NAACP, CT Missionary Baptist and the National Minority Update.

There have been no citizen complaints received for the month of April 2014.

**Crime**

- Crime is down 2% for the month of April 2014. However, there has been an uptick in burglaries. Most of these incidents involved breaking in storage units on Regency Drive.
- Calls for service and motor vehicle enforcements have increased.
- There has also been an increase in auto thefts as well.
- The department received some noise complaints with after hour parties occurring at 41 Cliffmount Drive and on Brookdale Avenue
- The department has increased traffic and speeding enforcements on Cottage Grove Road, Park Avenue, Blue Hills Avenue, Woodland Avenue and Maple Street.

- Driving while under the Influence violations are up as well. Several officers are able to recognize these violators based on their expertise in this area of enforcement.

### Community Services

Chief Hammick reported that the department has participated in the following community service events:

- Hostile Intruder/Active Shooting presentations for Town of Bloomfield employees
- On April 26, 2014, there was a graduation held for participants in the Police Crusaders program. This program involved town youth and police officers collaborating with team building activities
- On April 3, 2014, a training on Fraud & Identity Theft was held at Beth Hillel Synagogue
- On April 24, 2014, the department participated in Take your Sons & Daughters to Work Day.
- Training on Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying

In the BVA division, 22 students enrolled in the current EMT class will graduate on Thursday, May 15, 2014. On May 17, 2014, the State Practical Test will be held.

On September 2, 2014, the next EMT class will begin. The cost of the class is \$400.

A committee has been developed to discuss and organize the purchase of a new ambulance. BVA also participated in Blue Hills Fire Safety Day and the Take your Sons & Daughters to Work Day.

Councilor Merritt inquired about process for citizen complaints, track of intersection issues on Blue Hills Avenue and Cottage Grove Road. These complaints can be filed in Human Resources, online – website, complaint form at Records or a call supervisor at the police department.

Councilor Rivers inquired about enforcement increases in traffic control around town. New officers encouraged to educate residents on safe driving

Councilor Washington asked about advertising in minority newspapers – process done with the Human Resources department. There are no officer goals for ticketing.

## **FIRE**

### Center Fire District

Chief William Riley stated that calls for services have increased to approximately 183 calls for the month. The average of calls over the past two years has been 150, most in auto accidents and smoke detectors.

Chief Riley is recruited and two were trained in Firefighters I and II. There are three more applicants to enroll this summer. There has been some interest and response from sandwich board advertisements.

### Blue Hills District

Chief Robert Farmer stated that his district has seen an increase of approximately 220 calls. Most have been fires – 12 structural and 8 kitchen.

On April 12, 2014, the district held their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fire Education & Safety Day. Chief Farmer thanked the Town Manager and Town Council for their continued support and attending this event.

Company Officer Training will be held in June. The State of Connecticut is conducting this training as it is offered statewide to all firefighters. This is a 32 hour course with approximately 30 persons in attendance.

The district will purchase 15 new portable radios for the department. Grant funding was received from the State of Connecticut to offset cost of training.

The community outreach officer/firefighter Mr. Vincent Jaunai hosted the Boys Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America attending tours at headquarters for fire education. They also participated in mentor programs at Rehoboth Church of God and Bethel AME Church.

The district will continue going out to businesses to encourage fire prevention.

In addition, the district recruited a volunteer firefighter that began in April 2014.

Approximately, \$93,000 in grants has been received from the State of Connecticut (reimbursement funds).

### **EMS**

Mr. Pat Braun stated that Sergeant Ellen White attended a meeting, in which she was well received by the membership.

A committee has been established to begin discussion and research for the purchase of a new ambulance.

Mr. Braun encouraged the committee to have statistical information ready for September 2014.

It was also reported that last month (April), it was not necessary to use AMR to cover calls within town. The BVA was well staffed and handled all incoming calls directly, great job!!!

### **BVA Fund**

- The committee also met on May 5, 2014. It was noted that the BVA Fund has \$2100 available in training equipment.
- There was also a scholarship fund was approved for participants joining BVA, \$100.00 reimbursement available if they join BVA and work for 6 months.
- The next fund drive pledge will fully support the purchase of new ambulance.

Pat distributed a statistical information sheet which analyzes the volume of calls responded to versus private contracted calls. It was also briefly noted that there may be a potential increase in calls as a result of Obamacare.

The committee briefly discussion regarding the collection process at BVA with insurance companies and Medicare.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.